

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SCCT-01 /059 W
----- 072388

R 161610Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6374

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, EI, UK (NI)

SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER DISCUSSES IRA ARMY COUNCIL

1. LONDON "TIMES" JANUARY 17 CONTAINS REPORT FROM ROBERT FISK
ON BREAKDOWN OF IRA TRUCE. ARTICLE SAYS THAT FOLLOWING WERE PART-
ICIPANTS IN MEETINGS OF IRA "ARMY COUNCIL" IN REPUBLIC ON SUBJECT.
REPORTER DOES NOT SAY THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS WERE ACTUAL MEMBERS
OF COUNCIL.

-- SEAMUS TWOMEY OF BELFAST. (REPORTEDLY VOTED FOR EXTENSION
OF TRUCE.)

-- BRENDAN HUGHES FROM COUNTY ARMAGH. (FELT THAT BRITISH
RESPONSE TO TRUCE HAD BEEN INADEQUATE.)

-- MARTIN MCGUINNESS OF DERRY. (SAME POSITION AS HUGHES.

-- DAITHI O CONAILL FROM REPUBLIC. (DID NOT VOTE ON CEASE-FIRE
DICATION.)

-- BRENDAN MAGILL, LONDON SINN FEIN ORGANIZER. (POSITION ON
TRUCE NOT STATED.)

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-- RUAIRI O BRADAIGH FROM REPUBLIC. (POSITION NOT STATED.)

-- SEAMUS LOUGHRAN FROM NORTHERN IRELAND. (POSITION NOT STATED.)

2. COMMENT: FISK IS WELL-INFORMED REPORTER, AND HIS ARTICLE IS PROBABLY ACCURATE IN LARGE PART. JOURNALISTS SEEM TO KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT IRA AS ANYONE, AND IT MAY WELL BE THAT GOI IS READING NEWSPAPERS TO FIND OUT WHO ARE IRA DECISION-MAKERS. FORMERLY, PRESS IN REPUBLIC CARRIED MUCH INFORMATION OF THIS KIND, BUT IT HAS NOT DONE SO SINCE INTRODUCTION OF LAW ALLOWING PRESS REPORTS TO BE USED AS EVIDENCE IN TRIALS FOR IRA MEMBERSHIP.
MOORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARMISTICE, AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DUBLIN00114
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750019-0769
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750147/aaaabpgt.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEWSPAPER DISCUSSES IRA ARMY COUNCIL
TAGS: PINS, EI, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006